



WORKS IN PROGRESS

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THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

APRIL 2005

We must hold Caterpillar responsible for its complicity in war crimes

by Rochelle Gause

Since 1967 the Caterpillar Corporation has been providing equipment to the Israeli military for use in its illegal occupation of the Palestinian people. Since the second intifada began in 2000, the Israeli military has created a human rights crisis in the Occupied Territories. Three specific incidents have recently highlighted the role Caterpillar is playing in these human rights abuses: the 2002 destruction of the Jenin refugee Camp, the 2003 killing of Rachel Corrie, as she nonviolently defended a Palestinian home, and last May's "Operation Rainbow" in Rafah where farmland, homes, and infrastructure were destroyed.

We can no longer let corporations such as Caterpillar use public relation statements to cover up their breaking of international law without consequence. Those in political power are not holding Corporations responsible, so it leaves the work to us. Momentum is building against the Caterpillar Corporation for providing equipment to the Israeli military knowing that is continuously being used for human rights abuses. On March 16, 2005, the Center for Constitutional Rights charged Caterpillar with war crimes in federal court on behalf of Rachel's parents Craig and Cindy Corrie. On the International Day of Action Against Caterpillar on April 13th protests are planned in Buffalo, New York; San Francisco, California; Lafayette, Indiana; Meridian, Idaho; Memphis, Tennessee; Dallas, Texas; Corvallis, Oregon; Peoria and Chicago, Illinois. Locally, a coalition of 43 organizations sent a letter



Craig and Cindy Corrie in Rafah with the Nasrallah family after their daughter Rachel Corrie was crushed to death by an Israeli military Caterpillar bulldozer. Rachel was attempting to defend the Narallah home against demolition by the US-built weapon.

to the CEO of N.C. Machinery, Washington's largest Caterpillar distributor, requesting he use his position to help end Caterpillars complicity in human

17025 W Valley Highway. A carpool will leave the Olympia area at 12:30pm from the Rainy Day parking lot on the corner of Division and Harrison.

We each have the potential, as Rachel did , to stand for bravery and for justice with open hearted compassion.

rights abuses. He did not respond to the letter and refuses to return our messages. So clearly we need to increase the public pressure.

On Wednesday, April 13th we will be gathering for a rally at 2pm at the N.C. Machinery headquarters in Tukwila,

On the anniversary of Rachel's death, Dr. Samir, the father of the family whose home she died defending wrote this to the international community: "As for Rachel and the message she delivered to us and to the world, she was in pursuit of the truth. She dedicated her life to that.

She conveyed the truth as she saw it, reporting the crimes of the Israeli army against innocent Palestinian civilians. The hands of the occupation killed her in cold blood as if to say to us, 'I will deny you your spoken voice.' I don't feel safe as long as our voice does not reach the outside world. I call on my ISM friends to return to us. I ask you to come back because Rafah needs you. Tanks roll in and out with total ease, killing and destroying at will. And, without you, no one sees and no one hears. There is not a day when my family and I don't think of Rachel. I told her family when they came to visit us that Rachel was a loss to my family, a loss to the whole Palestinian people, just as she was to them. Everyone lost her. We still see that bulldozer that took her away from us. As much as I speak about her, I still cannot do her justice."

We each have the potential, as Rachel did , to stand for bravery and for justice with open hearted compassion. The question is not how did Rachel become so spectacular, but what is keeping us from reaching our own courage, preventing us from making our own stand for justice, reaching people outside ourselves and realizing the power and privilege that we as Americans hold.

The International Day of Action Against Caterpillar provides us an opportunity to support the Palestinian people and to contribute to the end of their suffering of human rights abuses at the hands of the Israeli military. We must also work to inform and inspire people in wealthy countries to challenge the corporate and global structures that sustain the violence and injustices throughout world.

**International Day of
Action Against
Caterpillar**

On Wednesday, April 13th we will be gathering for a rally at 2pm at the N.C. Machinery headquarters in Tukwila, 17025 W Valley Highway. A carpool will leave the Olympia area at 12:30pm from the Rainy Day parking lot on the corner of Division and Harrison.

For more information check out www.orscp.org or call 360 753-7093. To sign up for the car pool contact Jake 360 259-6549.

Update From the Pizza Time Lockout

Olympia Pizza Time franchise owner Richard Kelley locked out all nine striking workers by closing the store on February 21. The last negotiations between Pizza time workers and Kelley broke down when Kelley insisted he would open the store if workers accepted wages below state law. Pizza time workers refused Kelley's unreasonable condition.

Pizza Time workers took their case to the National Labor Relations Board. A federal investigator interviewed the workers and Kelley. The investigator informed the workers that federal labor law offers no protection from owners who close their own stores. Pizza Time workers are in need of a labor lawyer.

On March 8th Pizza Time workers joined in solidarity with the Global Women's Strike. The Global Women's Strike is a day to recognize the value in

work women do, most of which is not paid or is underpaid, and for women around the world to realize the power and autonomy they have when they stand together. Pizza time workers made pizzas and helped feed local women on

the first Olympia Worker's Association union workplace. Although Richard Kelley refused to voluntarily recognize the Olympia Worker's Association, the idea of a local independent union has taken root with other workers in the

Pizza Time workers have no regrets about the strike.

strike for the day.

Pizza Time workers are joining up with Endicott Farms to help make a mobile pizza oven. Once the oven is completed pizza workers will be making pizza again and raising funds to start a worker-run pizza co-op. Pizza Time workers are also working with the Olympia Food Co-op to learn what it takes to start and operate a co-op.

Pizza Time workers wanted to create

community. Pizza Time workers realize there are many workers in Olympia who want to improve their work conditions.

Pizza Time workers have no regrets about the strike. The ties workers created between themselves and the Olympia community are strong. Many Pizza Time workers feel the strike is one of the most meaningful experiences of their lives and thank everyone who has shown support.



WORKS In PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, WA. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to wip@zhonka.net or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

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"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WROC Night out in Olympia on Monday, April 4th

First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE

Join us for a potluck at 5:30 followed by a discussion about the Olympia welfare office. A new administrator, Carol MacCracken, started in March. Do we want to meet with her? What do you want her to know about your experiences there? What works? What can she improve? We need your input!

On site childcare provided.

Volunteer Meetings every Wednesday at 1:30 pm

At the WROC office, 701 Franklin Street SE in the Payne Room of the 1st Christian Church.

Children welcome.

Can't make it then, but still want to volunteer?

Call us - 360-352-9716, toll free at 1-866-343-9716 or email at wrocoly@wroc.org

Panhandle for Solutions every Wednesday from 11 – 1 at the sundial on the Capitol Campus!

As they craft a new budget, please join us to remind our legislators not to balance it on the backs of the poor. Programs like GAU, Basic Health, Dental and Mental Health Services are on the chopping block. They need to hear how these programs help you or people in your community. Poor people need a cost of living increase even more than state employees. Join us at 10 am at the WROC office to drink coffee, tea and make signs. Children are welcome.

International Day of Action Against Caterpillar

Wednesday April 13th at 2pm at NC Machinery in Tukwila, 17025 W Valley Hwy

Join people all over the world on April 13th to oppose Caterpillar's sales of bulldozers to the Israeli military for use in destroying Palestinian homes and other human rights violations. Caterpillar shareholders will meet in Chicago that day and discuss a resolution to investigate how their equipment is being used. In collaboration with other local peace groups, the Olympia Rafah Sister City Project has planned a rally at the largest Caterpillar distributor in Washington. For more information www.orscp.org or call (360) 753-7093. A carpool will depart from the parking lot at the corner of Harrison and Division at 12:30pm.

To sign up for the carpool contact Jake (360) 259-6549

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Announcements, etc.



Be A Dove in this Year's Procession of the Species on April 22nd!

Started by Rachel Corrie, continued by her community, for the fourth year doves will fly through the streets of Olympia in the Procession of the Species. If you would like to be a dove this year, make a costume and meet us in the air element before the procession begins, or if you would like help with your costume or would like to work on it with fellow doves, join us in the studio, at the old James Madison Elementary School building, on the corner of S. Central and 8th on Wednesdays from 6pm to 8pm or call Rochelle at 753-7093. The Procession studio is open everyday with lots of materials and help available. For the studio hours check out the procession website at www.procession.org.

Watch Programs With a Progressive Point of view on TCTV

Many programs with a progressive point of view run on Thurston Community Television on Comcast Cable Channel 22 (or 29 in some areas.)

Here is a sampling:

The locally-produced **Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation** program about peace and justice issues airs every Monday at 1:30 PM and every Thursday at 9:00 PM.

Progressive Roundtable Forum, also locally produced, airs Wednesdays at 7:00 PM and Fridays at 3:00PM.

Our View, a program about organized labor in the State of Washington runs Mondays at 6:00 PM and Tuesdays at 7:00 AM.

The Big Picture showcases independent documentaries every Sunday at 10:00 PM. These four programs inaugurate a new program once monthly and repeat in the remaining timeslots.

Democracy Now! is a national daily news program which runs Monday through Friday at 5:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

Many local presentations are also taped for showing on TCTV.

Yonatan Shapira. An Israeli helicopter pilot who has refused to serve on missions into the occupied territories spoke on March 1 at Temple Beth Hatfiloh in Olympia. A tape of his talk can be seen Tuesday 4/5/2005 12:00pm Saturday 4/9/2005 7:00pm Wednesday 4/13/2005 10:00am Saturday 4/16/2005 7:30pm Tuesday 4/19/2005 12:00am

The February 18th event, at the Capitol Theater **"Support the Truth"** featured nationally prominent speakers journalist **Dahr Jamail** and former United Nations weapons inspector **Scott Ritter**. A tape of that evening's dialogue can be seen on TCTV on these dates in April.

Wednesday 4/6/2005 10:30pm Saturday 4/9/2005 8:30pm Wednesday 4/13/2005 8:00pm Saturday 4/16/2005 11:00pm Friday 4/22/2005 12:00am

All airdates are on TCTV Cable Channel 22 (29 in Lacey)

It's easy to get involved at Thurston Community Television and produce your own programs. Call 956-3100.



About the cover: See *To End the War, Listen to Soldiers' War Stories*, by Simona Sharoni on page 6.

WIP Schedule

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The Right and Left of the Right to Die

by Naomi Jaffe

Granted - more than granted, enthusiastically agreed - the Bushies, red-staters and fundamentalists are arch-hypocrites who profess to care about one brain-dead woman while ignoring, nay, promoting, hunger, mass murder, torture, and misery around the world.

But apart from the predictable, and justified, ridicule of their inconsistency, what does our side really think of the right to life and the right to death? Who should decide, and on what basis? Are we hypocrites too, defending some lives and not others?

Doctors say Terri Schiavo is in a vegetative state, has no meaningful functions, and does not experience suffering as she dies. Since when do we believe the doctors? I thought we leftists were skeptical, even scornful, of the authority of mainstream medicine. Now all of a sudden the neurologists are our leaders?

And the husband. Since when are we devotees of the sanctity of heterosexual marriage rights? How do we know he, and only he, has the best interests of his wife at heart? The fact that the courts chose to believe his version of the story doesn't pull weight with those of us who have seen more than a few unjust court decisions, some of them involving the sanctity of marriage and in particular the rights of husbands.

It's hard to tell from a distance what would be best for Terri Schiavo, but invoking the authority of doctors, hus-

band, and judges (don't they all seem to be men here?) is an easy dodge for the hard questions. It doesn't behoove us to use this case for grandstanding any more than it behooves the so-called right-to-lifers.

Sorting out moral ambiguity has never been progressives' strong suit, as many women who fight for abortion rights but grieve for our unborn children can testify.

The right to die is fraught with moral

might not want to die. And for meaningful, free, accessible preventive public health programs that would give us all a better chance of not being in that condition to begin with.

We need to pay more attention to the the disability rights activists who are raising the worrisome implications of the standard progressive positions on the right to die. People with disabilities, whose quality of life has its ups and downs like anyone else's, too often hear, 'I'd rather

Before we take on the right to die too enthusiastically, let's make sure everyone has an equal right to live. If we don't, the right to die, like everything else in this society, will reflect the gulf between those whose lives are valued and those whose lives are deemed worthless.

ambiguity. We would do well to be careful what we ask for, lest it be granted. Defending the right to die, in a country and a world in which there is no right to live, puts us in dangerous territory, territory already marked out by the Bush-era law in Texas that makes it easier to pull the plug on severely disabled people if public programs are paying for their care. Before we argue that patients in severe pain have the right to die, perhaps we should argue for the right to adequate pain medication and home care so they

be dead than live like that.' But those of us not living with serious disabilities do not and cannot know how we will feel if our situation changes, or what might make life worthwhile under various unforeseeable conditions. Our current able-bodied selves cannot speak for our future disabled selves.

I have been a caregiver for several close relatives as they neared death. Each situation was completely different and individual. One of my dear aunts, exhausted and uncomfortable from years

of dialysis, told me several times that she did not want to carry on. I should not have begged her to stay for the sake of those of us who loved her and weren't ready to let her go. With another aunt, family members agonizingly disagreed, post-stroke, on whether she could communicate her wishes or not. On the other hand my mother, at 96, had lost her memory completely, could barely speak, and had to be fed soft pureed foods from a spoon. She was completely unrecognizable as the beautiful, capable, strong woman we remembered. But with loving care in her own home, she appeared to be comfortable and at peace. Her serenity gave solace to those who grieved for the loss of the person she used to be. If her earlier self had left instructions about the conditions under which she would or would not want to live, those wishes would have been superceded, in my opinion, by the unspoken communication of contentment from her later self.

Before we take on the right to die too enthusiastically, let's make sure everyone has an equal right to live. If we don't, the right to die, like everything else in this society, will reflect the gulf between those whose lives are valued and those whose lives are deemed worthless. The morality of our progressive movements must be based on the equal and priceless value of each individual life. This is the real right to life, one we can't afford to cede to the promulgators of war, the death penalty, and global immiseration.

Naomi Jaffe is Executive Director of Holding Our Own Women's Foundation in Albany, NY and a former member of the Weather Underground. 🌱

Notes on the 2005 Global Women's Strike

End Poverty and War – Invest in Caring Not Killing!

Patty Imani

On March 8th we participated in the 6th Annual Global Women's Strike here in Olympia. Friends gathered at Sylvester Park and shared music, food, and thoughts concerning the state of women's continuing fight to live while challenging oppression nationally and globally.

Sixteen women shared music and stories of their work in the community challenging poverty and war, and the devaluing, objectification, and appropriation of women's lives and labor. The affects of these assaults take so many forms, as does the work we do. What is common in our work is our endurance in continuously resisting those alien forces that appropriate and assault the creative / sustainable systems that we strive to participate in and protect. We work for change by giving to, and challenging one another, as well as those structures that benefit from the taking and commodifying of life (against sustainable ends).

The Global Women's Strike was born on International Women's Day in 1999, when women in Ireland held a national general strike. The strike expanded and became global in the year 2000. Today, women in over 60 countries participate in the strike.

Because of The U.S.'s role in the world, as the primary pursuers of war, as the primary oppressors of peoples and lands, as leaders in resource extraction and consumption, our participation in the

strike nationally is essential.

The strike calls for an end to poverty and an end to war.

On poverty: Central to the strike is gaining legal recognition and wages for all the unwaged work women do, as well as pay equity for the underwaged work women do.

According to the UN, women do 2/3 of the world's work: from breastfeeding and raising children to caring for those who are sick, older or disabled, to growing, preparing and cooking the food that feeds families and communities—this in addition to labor in the formal marketplace. It is shown that women take only 5% of measured world assets in return. for 75% of the work.

To legitimize work that functions to sustain life is an essential threat to the prevalent ideology that functions to objectify and exploit life for use and profit.

To legitimize work that functions to sustain life is an essential threat to the prevalent ideology that functions to objectify and exploit life for use and profit. Our bodies, our environments, whatever is created from the relationships that exist between - are valued only to the extent they support or threaten that function.

Where pay equity is stressed, primary to the demands of the strike is a living wage for ALL women's work. As Audre Lorde talks about in her essay "Uses of the Erotic" women's inclusion in a mar-

ket system that "defines human need to the exclusion of the psychic and emotional components of that need (reducing work) to a travesty of necessities," might mean our survival but certainly not our liberation (given we define our liberation holistically - our health in relation to others' and the world we live within).

On war: The support of Women, as givers of life, as protectors of life, demands an end to war, an end to those social structures that necessitate war. Systems of hierarchy, systems of economy and production that require control of earth's resources, control of lands that hold those resources, control of peoples who strive to serve as caregivers of those resources.

"The Global Women's Strike reclaims military spending for caring, feeding, healing and learning":

\$1 trillion a year is spent on the military worldwide, more than half of that is spent by the US alone. Just 10% of this would provide the essentials of life for all humans living today: water, sanitation, basic health, nutrition, literacy, as well as a minimum income. The majority of those killed and wounded by war are Women and Children; 80% of those left as refugees in the wake of war are Women and Children.

Women on strike are insisting the governments of the world, and the corporations that rule them - must "Invest in Caring Not Killing"

If you have access to the internet, please go to the Global Women's Strike web site at www.globalwomens and take a minute to sign the Invest in Caring Not Killing Petition to all governments. It reads:

"We, the people of the world, demand that:

~ The 'war with no end', the arms trade, and the genocide it imposes, be brought to an end.

We demand

~ The over \$900 billion now spent on military budgets worldwide be invested instead in the care and welfare of all the people and our planet.

We demand

~ All caring work, now done mainly by women, be valued and paid for, and a pension paid to all those whose decades of work have never been recognized.

We demand

~ Caring, and therefore the survival and enrichment of every life and of the planet's, becomes the aim of every society and every economy."

In Olympia, we would like to give thanks to those who nurtured us during the Global Women's Strike. Many thanks to those who fed us in the park that day - the striking Pizza Time Workers, Don and Dave from Endicott Farms, Food Not Bombs, the Blue Heron Bakery, and the Oly Food Co. Special thanks to Music 6000 for providing us with a great



Report from the United for Peace and Justice National Assembly

by Jonathan Coleman

[Edited by Alice Zillah]

The second national assembly of United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) was held over President's Day weekend in St. Louis, Missouri. Along with Trish Ryder, I had the opportunity to attend as a delegate representing the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, one of over 1000 local and national peace organizations that are members of this coalition.

During the conference I began reading David Garrow's biography of Dr. Martin Luther King, *Bearing the Cross*. One of the core debates at the conference – whether UFPJ should adopt a more anti-imperialist stance, and oppose corporate globalization generally – was predated by a similar debate in the 1960's about the Vietnam War. Dr. King's own evolution as a political leader led to his questioning of the United States' economic system as a whole, not just the ongoing war.

The present Iraq War, imperialism, racism, and militarism are all products of



3rd Bi-Annual Crap March, Labour Party Spring Conference, Manchester 2004

spoke extensively about how racism is produced and perpetuated by capitalism. She also spoke of how racism “mutates itself,” and how today, Arab Americans, as opposed to African Americans, are its

of black people with the struggle of all people for justice, throughout the world.”

Panels and Proposals

The purpose of the assembly itself was not just to discuss strategies and tactics but to actually come to agreement on which ones to adopt and employ. A number of proposals advocating different tactics and strategies were discussed and voted on. Prior to voting, we heard from various panels composed of labor activists, feminist leaders, gay rights activists, immigrant rights advocates, and youth leaders, among others.

Tom Hayden, a California legislator for 18 years, was on the opening panel of the assembly. Hayden drafted an influential letter in January 2005 entitled *An Appeal to Global Conscience*. “We appeal to all peace and justice movements to stand together as a conscience of the world against the Bush Administration's bloody occupation of Iraq and towards an American Empire,” it begins. “We may be in for a long war, but together, we can undermine ...make it impossible

popular opposition at home, and the breakdown of the U.S. military. The same three factors, though to a lesser degree, are already at play in Iraq.” The anti-war movement, according to Cline, needs to focus on how to support and organize growing opposition here at home, both on the streets and within the U.S. military.

After hearing from the panel speakers, the assembly participants voted on proposals that UFPJ will support for the next year. Judging by the proposals that passed, it seemed that Hayden's beliefs were dominant among conference delegates. The “legislative action” proposal (which basically followed the Hayden's recommendations) passed. Conversely, two proposals that had strong support from most of the younger conference participants – one calling for UFPJ to implement a nonviolence resistance campaign and one that outlined a “people power strategy” proposal (designed to build a “powerful grassroots movement” and “confront the causes of war and injustice”) – were both defeated.

If peace activists really want to achieve lasting peace, we need to more forcefully attack the capitalist system itself, and work to construct an alternative economic order.

capitalism. For that reason it would be a mistake for the peace movement to “just focus on Iraq.” Dr. King warned us that “unless there is a significant and profound change in American life and policy” we would be “attending rallies without end.” If peace activists really want to achieve lasting peace, we need to more forcefully attack the capitalist system itself, and work to construct an alternative economic order.

Angela Davis and Danny Glover

On the second night of the assembly, Saint Louis University's Black Student Alliance and UFPJ co-sponsored a public dialog between the radical activist-philosopher Angela Davis and actor-activist Danny Glover. More than 1,600 people attended the discussion, which was facilitated by Damu Smith, founder of Black Voices for Peace.

The “challenges to broader structures of racism are connected to broader structures of imperialist war,” Davis said. “The forces that presume to make the world free and to be spreading democracy are instead spreading war.” She

greatest victims. She repeatedly stressed the need for Black America to fight for Muslims' civil rights and for gay rights. At numerous times she was interrupted by loud applause from the entire audience.

Danny Glover talked about his many trips to Africa and Haiti, and stressed the importance of connecting the aims of Black History Month with a more universal cause, by promoting the fight for justice and equity worldwide. “People of African descent live in various places in the world,” he said. “We must connect the struggle of black people in this country to the struggle worldwide. Our struggle does not exist in a vacuum.”

Glover also spoke about how Dr. King's politics had changed throughout his life. The Dr. King who led the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955 was a different Dr. King than the one who accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 1963, Glover said. Dr. King's continual transformation was evident when he later began to speak out forcefully against the Vietnam War. This was a man who had “connected the relationship of the trouble

As Hayden told the audience in the opening plenary, we need to “keep pressure on” the Congress: “Congress is frozen, and only the grassroots will unfreeze them.”

for the American government to continue its course, and begin to plant the foundations of peace.”

The most telling thing about the Hayden letter is its emphasis on traditional methods of political lobbying to end the war. Activists should pressure Congress to oppose further Bush administration funding requests for the war and occupation, should support local referendums against the war, should support pro-peace candidates running for elective office, and should work to build non-partisan peace alliances across party lines. As Hayden told the audience in the opening plenary, we need to “keep pressure on” the Congress: “Congress is frozen, and only the grassroots will unfreeze them.”

David Cline, national president of Veterans for Peace, was also on that opening panel. Cline spoke from a different perspective: “Having fought in Vietnam, I came back to the war at home and fought in that war as well,” he said. “Three factors ended that war – the continued resistance of the Vietnamese people,

The Central Question for American Peace Activists

I think anti-war activists need to draw the attention back towards capitalism, and the need to find a viable alternative economic model. In her talk, Angela Davis noted how Bush continually talks about “spreading freedom and democracy” to the Middle-East: “Every time you hear him use those words, *freedom* and *democracy*, substitute the word *capitalism* for those words, and then you'll know what he's really talking about,” she said.

In 1966 Dr. King said, “Something is wrong with the economic system of our nation... something is wrong with capitalism.” With those words, he laid down a challenge to the peace activists of his time and of the future. Will we focus on strategies to end this war by working within the legislative system and economic framework of the United States... or will we step back and look and the inherit injustice, and need for imperialist wars, that are the trademarks of capitalism? 🌱



early Central American Free Trade Agreement

To End the War, Listen to Soldiers’ War Stories

by **Simona Sharoni**

[This article was written roughly one week prior to the 2nd anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq]

As the second anniversary of the war on Iraq approaches and the death toll of U.S troops tops 1500, many soldiers return to our communities. To end the war, we must listen to their war stories rather than rely solely on peace marches. This challenge requires that we step outside of our comfort zone and talk to people whose political views may differ from ours. We ought to expose ourselves to the reality of war as experienced by our friends, neighbors and coworkers. Those of us who have organized and participated in countless peace demonstrations over the years are well aware that these public displays of discontent and conviction rarely attract people who are not already sympathetic to our plight.

Yet, around the country, peace and justice organizers are busy organizing marches, demonstrations, and community gatherings for March 19, 2005, which has been declared an international day of action against the war. Invoking the massive demonstrations of millions around the world on February 15, 2003, organizers insist that it is crucial for the peace movement to wake up and send a strong message to the Bush administration and to the American public that the war must end now!

Taking to the streets in a country where too many people care more about so-called reality TV than about the reality of war, is important. People need to be reminded that we are at war and that we, individually and collectively, are responsible for the killing of as many as 198,000 Iraqi civilians, according to a recent issue of the medical journal The Lancet. But peace demonstrations and public gatherings are not enough to illustrate that reality, let alone to question the



It is not the time, nor our role, to judge or educate these soldiers. They do not need us to tell them that they participated in a futile war, nor to lecture them about the real reasons behind it.

militarization of our foreign policy.

In fact, most peace activists would admit that they harbor no illusions that administration officials are going to listen, let alone end the war and bring the troops home. At best, anti-war demonstrations may re-energize the peace movement. But to avoid the paralysis that struck the movement when the Bush administration ignored the 2003 massive peace demonstrations around the globe, we must use any event marking this sad anniversary to expose the realities of war.

Rather than appealing to the deaf ear of this callous administration, we should listen to those most affected by the war in our society: soldiers who fought in Iraq and have been returning in large groups to our communities these days. We should not compete with the military or with groups in our communities that

are celebrating the return of the troops home with medals, honors, and fanfare but often fail to listen to the battle tales of individual soldiers. Instead, we ought to reach out as individuals to family mem-

reach out to and to communicate with those who don’t yet share our sense of urgency to end this war. Further, these personal accounts, shared in private settings, are invaluable because it is such uncensored stories that the mainstream corporate media, which has been embedded with (or rather in-bed-with) military units has failed to share with the public.

The public debate that took place in this country at the height of the War in Vietnam and eventually contributed to its end was ignited as much by the soldiers who returned from the battlefield and shared their hellish stories as by the anti-war movement. By listening to the stories of soldiers who have fought in Iraq we do not condone the inhuman actions they may have participated in, nor the war. Instead, we expose the reality of war and its devastating effects not only on its victims but on its perpetrators as well.

One of soldiers interviewed in Michael Moore’s Fahrenheit 9/11 states: “When you kill someone, you also kill a part of yourself.” This is not a message that military recruiters share with the vulnerable youth they are trying to desperately recruit. Unfortunately there is very little we can do to undo the massive death, destruction, and human suffering caused by this war. Listening to soldiers’ accounts may help us mobilize a larger segments of American society to end the war in Iraq and stop the senseless loss of life. In this dark moment in our history, soldiers’ war stories have more of a chance to offset the beat of the Bush Administrations war drums than the anti-war slogans we have been chanting at peace demonstrations.

Simona Sharoni is the 2004-2005 Savage Professor of Peace Studies at the University of Oregon, where she has been conducting research on and teaching about the relationship between race, gender and militarization. A resident of Olympia and a leading peace activist, she is the author of Gender and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The Politics of Women’s Resistance. E-mail: s.sharoni@comcast.net; webpage: www.oly-wa.us/simona .

Why and how should WE support soldiers upon their return to our community?

by **Simona Sharoni**

Following the publication of my article “To End the War, Listen to Soldiers’ Stories,” which is reprinted here, I was invited to mark the second anniversary of the war in Iraq in Fayetteville, NC. Fayetteville is the closest community to Fort Bragg, the largest military base in the United States. Fayetteville has earned the nicknames of Fatalville and Fayetteenam. Unusual and not-so-unusual features of the town include gross income inequalities, an extraordinarily high incidence of venereal disease, miles and miles of strip malls, and a history of racial violence. I developed a particular interest in Fort Bragg in 2002 after four soldiers at the base – three of them back from deployment in Afghanistan – killed their wives.

Against this backdrop, it is quite significant that over 4000 people marched and rallied in Fayetteville on March 19, 2005. This was the largest anti-war

demonstration in Fayetteville’s history, and signifies a historic turning point for the anti-war movement, when military families, veterans and soldiers take the lead in calling for an end to the Occupation in Iraq. While the rally and march

Military Families Speak Out and one of the organizers of the gathering concluded last week, “what happened in Fayetteville on the second anniversary of the invasion of Iraq should end forever the notion that the military community

Here in the South Sound, neighboring Fort Lewis, one of the nation’s largest military bases, we have been working on several initiatives designed to connect with and to support returning veterans and their families.

attracted a small, though loud contingent of counter-protesters, ordinary residents in town were overwhelmingly receptive and supportive. War had touched the lives of Fayetteville’s residents in multiple ways long before the most recent US invasion of Iraq, causing many of them to question its inevitability and permanence.

As Lou Plummer who is a member of

and the peace movement are destined to be at odds with one another.”

Here in the South Sound, neighboring Fort Lewis, one of the nation’s largest military bases, we have been working on several initiatives designed to connect with and to support returning veterans and their families. A special emphasis will be placed on initiatives involving veterans working with other veterans

using peer support and empowerment, self-help models. We hope to use this opportunity to bring together people regardless of their political position on the war.

For more information, please go to: www.verts4vets.us or email us at: wa@vets4vets.us

Simona Sharoni is a local coordinator of Vets4Vets. She served in the Israeli military and has been researching, writing, and teaching about militarization and its effects for the past two decades. Her work can be found at <http://www.oly-wa.us/simona> .

BEFORE YOU
FORGET,
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SEE PAGE 2

Worthy American Values: Justice and Peace

by Lou Plummer

This article references a "Stop the War" event in Fayetteville, NC, on March 19, 2005. The photos shown on this page were taken on that same day here in Olympia. Speakers at the Capitol campus and at Sylvester Park were photographed by Robert Torre. The "Support the Truth" photo was taken by Drew Hendricks.



Emcee Dennis Mills - Vietnam war veteran and member of the Rachel Corrie chapter of Veterans For Peace (Chapter 109), Fellowship of Reconciliation, and Olympia Friends Meeting.

Cindy Sheehan's eyes showed no fear, only fierce determination. The co-founder of Gold Star Families for Peace stepped forward and a crowd of nearly four thousand people slowly began to follow her up a steep hill and into the nation's consciousness. The mother of Specialist Casey Sheehan, a soldier who now lies in a grave in Vacaville, California, traveled all the way across the country to Fayetteville, NC, the town outside of Ft. Bragg. She came to grieve and to add her righteous anger to a growing sentiment among military families and veterans that the war in Iraq is wasting the lives of yet another generation.

A young man in a red beret and a desert camouflage jacket walked purposefully behind her. The banner he helped carry read "Iraq Veterans Against the War." Joshua Despain served in Iraq with Ft. Bragg's 82nd Airborne. A friend died in combat. Questioning the reasons for that sacrifice, Despain refused to return to Iraq after being granted leave in the U.S. The Army quietly discharged him rather than allowing his case to draw attention to the growing discontent among its ranks. Now he along with nearly 150 other men and women from across the country are raising a collective voice against the war they fought in. Many of



Angela Blickenstaff, 25, is the widow of Joe Blickenstaff who died in a rollover accident in Iraq on Dec. 8, 2003. Angela is in the National Guard, and this was the first time she spoke out against the war at a public event.



This war is an obscene reality to the people whose lives are forever changed by it.

them were in Fayetteville for their first national meeting.

As the march moved forward, wives with husbands deployed to Iraq walked beside the fathers and mothers whose sons and daughters also serve. Military Families Speak Out, with a membership of over 2,000, has been a leader in the current movement to end the war. Kara Hollingsworth of Ft. Bragg, whose husband isn't due to return from his second tour of duty until November, carried her four-year-old daughter and looked not the least bit intimidated by the weight of representing the thousands of local families with loved ones in harm's way.

At Fayetteville's Rowan Street Park the marchers were greeted by hundreds of police officers. A few dozen counter-protesters held thoughtful signs, includ-



Speaker Jody Tiller was raised in the military and served in the Air Force during the first Gulf War. She is a member of Veterans for Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation, and is the smiling face behind the counter at Traditions Cafe.

ing my favorite, "Osama is Yo Mama." This small but obnoxiously vocal group perched unmolested on a grassy knoll overlooking the park as the groups of students from Quaker colleges and the parents of slain soldiers had their backpacks searched and their bodies gone over with metal detecting wands. Still, the enthusiasm of the crowd grew instead of abating as Ralph Baldwin, a Vietnam veteran with some serious musical talent, kept them entertained during the nearly hour long search process.

Pat Elder of Bethesda, Maryland, drove to the rally with his daughter to deliver 100 coffins and 100 American flags. As those carrying the coffins finally entered the park, a series of speakers unlike any assembled in this war took the stage one

after another to captivate the crowd as they drove home the point that war has a human face.

Michael Hoffman, a Marine Lance Corporal assigned to an artillery battery during the invasion, told those assembled about the near-impossibility of receiving medical benefits from the overloaded and under-funded Veterans Administration.

Kelly Dougherty, an eight-year veteran of the Colorado National Guard, spoke of how her feelings for the Iraqi people had changed as she served as a military police officer during her year in Iraq.

What happened in Fayetteville on the second anniversary of the invasion of Iraq should end forever the notion that the military community and the peace movement are destined to always be at odds with one another.

Michael Berg, whose son Nick, a contractor, was killed last year after being taken hostage, explained that his family wants peace, not vengeance. So did David Potorti, co-founder of September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, whose brother, Jim, died as the World Trade Center towers collapsed.

This war is an obscene reality to the people whose lives are forever changed by it. In a military community it is some-



Clint Burelson, President of the Olympia Local of the American Postal Workers Union spoke on Labor against the War and the need for democracy in the USA. Clint also hosts the Progressive Roundtable Forum on TCTV Channel 22/29 Wednesdays at 7:00 PM and Fridays at 3:00PM.



Susan Livingston, whose younger brother Joe Blickenstaff died in Iraq, is a member of the NW chapter of Military Families Speak Out and Gold Star Families For Peace - families who have lost a loved one in the war. These groups, along with Western WA chapters of Veterans For Peace met with an aide to Governor Gregoire presenting a resolution calling for the Washington National Guard to be brought home.

times difficult to counter the flag-waving stereotype by objecting to the lies and broken promises emanating from Washington. Those who depend on the military for their housing, medical care and their very livelihoods are to be commended for risking all of that by speaking out. Those from the communities of faith and conscience who support them are also to be commended.

What happened in Fayetteville on the second anniversary of the invasion of Iraq should end forever the notion that the military community and the peace movement are destined to always be at odds with one another. Months of planning and cooperation between grassroots activists and veterans and military families from around the country resulted in a nearly flawless example of the power that real people have when they unite.

Their message was clear. Real support for the troops means bring them

home now and taking care of them when they get back. Soldiers who resist the call to participate in senseless violence will be encouraged and welcomed by a nation that sees that resistance as a real American value.

Lou Plummer, of Fayetteville, NC, is a member of Military Families Speak Out and the Bring Them Home Now! campaign. He can be reached at lou.plummer@mac.com.

The World Waits for an Answer

by Robert Jensen

[The following is a speech delivered on March 19, 2005 - the second anniversary of the US invasion on Iraq.]

First, a disclaimer: Given all the fussing about dangerous radical professors these days, I should make it clear that while I teach at the University of Texas at Austin, I don't speak for the university. (Not that anyone at this rally would ever imagine that I do.) I repeat: What I'm about to say is not official policy of the University of Texas. In case anyone was confused, the University of Texas is not a radical institution and is not committed to anti-empire politics.

It's more important to make it clear that I don't claim to speak FOR anyone. Instead, I try to speak with people, to speak as part of a movement for justice and peace. And in nearly 800 cities and towns across the United States today — and all around the world — people are in

what's at stake, and take action. But we can't be naïve about the struggle. We have to face the serious obstacles to real justice and peace in the world, which can't be overcome by one day's protest. Let's be clear about those obstacles.

The first, and most obvious, problem is: George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Condoleezza Rice, Donald Rumsfeld, and the Republican Party. We have to commit ourselves not just to getting these the ideologically fanatical reactionaries out of office but also to challenging them for control of the public conversation — the heart of democracy — which they have so effectively narrowed and degraded.

The second, and equally obvious, problem is: John Kerry, John Edwards, Hillary Rodham Clinton and the other corporate toadies who run the Democratic Party. I know there are some in the antiwar movement who believe the Democratic Party can be a vehicle to challenge the U.S. empire. But that wasn't true in the last half of the 20th century, when Cold-War liberals promoted imperial policies,

We need to keep central in our minds and in our hearts the fact of our affluence and their poverty, and understand the connection.

the streets together saying no to war, no to U.S. aggression, no to empire.

When I looked at the list of cities where there will be events today, I was most excited to see my hometown of Fargo, North Dakota. If people are in the streets in Fargo, the revolution must be just around the corner. You betcha. If people are protesting in Fargo, it means something's happening here, in the United States, in the empire.

What's happening is hopeful. It means that even when people are deluged daily by the most relentless and sophisticated propaganda system in the world, they can see clearly the issues, see clearly

and it isn't true in the 21st century, when War-on-Terrorism liberals are doing their part to prop up the empire.

Those are the easy targets, the people in power. But we face other challenges that run deeper.

We have to confront the deeply embedded racism in the United States that makes it so easy to mobilize public support for war, as long as the targets are not white.

We have to confront the barbarism of the United States, which not only has the capacity to destroy an entire society but a proven willingness to do just that to achieve policy goals.

But perhaps most importantly, we have to confront the incredible affluence and the sense of entitlement that is so common in this country. That is not a problem exclusive to reactionary Republicans or cowardly Democrats. It's a problem in every corner of this country, including in progressive politics. The United States has 5 percent of the world's population yet we consume about 25 percent of the world's oil and 30 percent of the gross world product. We all enjoy, to varying degrees, the cheap toys of empire. The people at the top benefit most, but we are all living in relative luxury compared with most of the rest of the world. Half the world's population — more than 3 billion of our brothers and sisters — live on less than \$2 a day. Half

logically unsustainable. It is a way of life that can't be enjoyed by the rest of the world, and it is a way of life that if unchecked literally will destroy the world. So, our immediate message is clear: U.S. out of Iraq now. The U.S. occupation of Iraq cannot bring security and democracy in Iraq. It is an impediment to security and democracy.

Our choices over the long term are just as clear. On all these fronts, political and personal, we have to ask: What are we willing to give up? What risks are we willing to take?

We have a choice: We can actually live the values that we say guide our country or we can abandon those values. We can work to make democracy — that is, a system in which ordinary people have

We have a choice: We can live on top of the world or we can live in the world.

the world's people live on what you and I might pay for a cup of fancy coffee. We need to keep central in our minds and in our hearts the fact of our affluence and their poverty, and understand the connection.

That affluence matters politically, because it is easy for people who live comfortably to be morally lazy and politically passive. U.S. military and economic power around the world helps create and perpetuate these conditions of inequality. To challenge that power is to challenge our own affluence. It's easy even for those who engage in dissident politics to forget that changing the politics of this country also means changing our own lives. The two projects must go forward together.

Let me put it as clearly as I can: The way we live in this country — the way every one of us here at this rally today lives — is morally indefensible and eco-

meaningful input into the formation of public policy — a reality in our own country. If we don't, the unrestrained and violent use of U.S. power abroad will remain a danger.

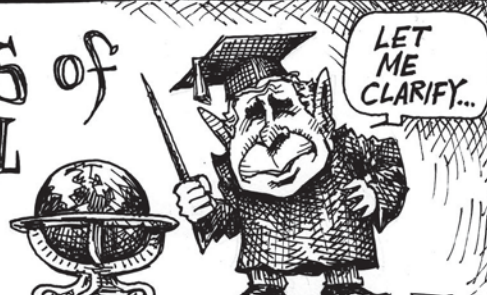
We have a choice: We can live on top of the world or we can live in the world. The stakes are high; if we don't find a way to force the United States to live in the world, before too long there may well be no world left for anyone.

These challenges can be condensed into a simple choice: We can be Americans, or we can be human beings.

The rest of the world is waiting for our answer.

Robert Jensen is a journalism professor at the University of Texas at Austin and the author of "Citizens of the Empire: The Struggle to Claim Our Humanity" from City Lights Books. He can be reached at rjensen@uts.cc.utexas.edu.

PRINCIPLES of INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



PRINCIPLE:	FOR EXAMPLE:	BUT THEN AGAIN:
Thou shalt not invade and occupy other countries*	Syria in Lebanon	*does not apply to U.S. invading: Afghanistan, Iraq, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Mexico
Thou shalt not build nuclear weapons*	Iraq... or Iran... or North Korea	*does not apply to U.S. or Israel, or Britain or France, or India or China or Pakistan
Thou shalt not interfere in other countries' elections*	Russia interfering in the Ukraine	*does not apply to U.S. interfering in Iraq, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Australia, Guatemala, Chile, El Salvador, Ukraine, Haiti.



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Member-Owned and Collectively Managed through Consensus Decision Making

The Struggle for Sovereignty in Brazil

by David Lavender

I traveled recently to Brazil. Much of the time I spent there I was involved with Via Campesina and the Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST). My travels included the inauguration of the MST's Escola Nacional Florestan Fernandes near the city of Guararema, hanging out in the city of Sao Paulo (one of the world's largest cities which recently celebrated its 450th anniversary) in Porto Alegre for the World Social Forum, and near Candiotta in the south of Brazil at a MST settlement. The following is a brief overview of these groups and my experiences in Brazil.

Via Campesina is an organization made of movements of indigenous and peasant people from all over the world. Their

Latin America. One of these organizations is Confederacion Sindical de Colonizadores de Bolivia (CSCB), which itself is made up of thirty organizations. Each group has its own unique circumstances and therefore the tactics used differ, but many key issues are held in common and these groups see the strength in working together.

Via Campesina is a very active, powerful movement and has been a strong force to help create the World Social Forum. The World Social Forum is four days dedicated to creating the space for discussions, debates, networking, and organizing between different social justice groups around the world. There are workshops on many different subjects such as labor conditions in southeast Asia, informational discussions on different native peoples of Brazil, to discussions on the impacts



vendors selling a variety of things. There were over 100,000 people registered for the World Social Forum and an estimated 200,000 at the opening day march.

So a lot of my time was spent with and learning more about the MST. There are over two million people in the MST, and these people are organized into regional and other groups that make up the larger organization. One tactic used by the MST is to occupy land that is not being used and to bring it into cultivation, thus receiving titles to the land. These actions, which take thousands of people and an understanding of Brazil's Constitution which allows for this to happen, have resulted in about 400,000 families having a place to live, cultivate, survive. Another result has been the wrath of the latifundios (rich land owners), who often used to "own" the land the MST now occupies. The MST does not see people's access to land as a point of debate, but as an inherent right. To try to keep the land, the latifundios hire thugs with guns to intimidate and even kill

at CEPA in the six days I was there. Educational topics included language, plant identification and uses, politics, agriculture and more. This area was also a center for working on and fixing equipment used by people in the settlement.

Another big part of my time with the MST was at a school inauguration about an hour from Sao Paulo. The school is near the city of Guararema, the Escola Nacional Florestan Fernandes, a school on human political and cultural organization. Students cover thoughts and writings on revolution, capitalism, Marxism, socialism, and other less known ideas as a basis for the discussion and creation of alternative models for human organization. The inauguration consisted of four days of speakers and music and food, attracting hundreds of people from all over the world. I heard people talking from South Korea, South Africa, Russia, Cuba, Libya, Palestine, Columbia, etc. This was another great opportunity to meet and dialogue with people from all

The MST does not see people's access to land as a point of debate, but as an inherent right.

commitments are as follows: "To defend and protect seeds against privatization. To defend and protect seeds against contamination and transgenics. To defend our sovereign rights to use and maintain our own knowledge systems. To teach our children the values, principles and forms of behavior that will enable them to live in harmony with nature. To intensify and stimulate the resistance and disobedience against agricultural policies imposed by governments and transnational corporations. To resist the imposition of technologies that damage life. To promote and support the autonomy of peasants and indigenous peoples to reach food and political sovereignty by taking an insurgent stand against neoliberalism."

Tens of millions of people around the world make up Via Campesina, and they represent many groups. The Coordinadora Latinoamerica de Organizaciones del Campo (CLOC) is a good example of the structure of the Via Campesino movement. CLOC is made up of about forty organizations from

of neoliberalism on the world and what we are doing about it. The theme of the World Social Forum is "Another World is Possible".

I was registered at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre with Via Campesina. The place I slept at was an arena where about 500 people from different Via Campesina groups in South America stayed as well. This area was also part of the Social Forum, with speakers every day specifically geared toward the Via Campesina Movement. The needs of everyone at the arena were met with the cooperation of all the different groups. This made for some really nice days of networking, sharing of information, and a fun time with lots of music and dancing and such. For myself, I most enjoyed this opportunity to meet and talk with people from all over the world. The World Social Forum itself was huge, with different areas being separated by more than an hours walk. There was a tent city with about 30,000 people sleeping there, and it was a carnival-like setting with many

Groups in the U.S. could learn a lot from these movements' ability to unify broad segments of society for common goals of social justice and change.

MST members.

The MST settlement I stayed in is in the southern part of Brazil. This is where BioNatur is located, a seed company that has MST member-grown seeds. This helps develop seeds adapted to the environment, helps save seed genetics, helps with the farmers' abilities to take care of themselves, and now is bringing in some income as the local government is buying the seeds for free distribution. With thousands of people in this settlement there are many different community and farming situations.

During my visit to the MST settlement I stayed at the CEPA, which in English translates to the Center for the Practice of Alternative Education. About thirty to thirty-five people of all ages attended classes

over the world engaged in different yet similar struggles. The stories were many, some inspirational, others breaking your heart, and all important to hear.

The popular movement is strong in Latin America. Groups in the U.S. could learn a lot from these movements' ability to unify broad segments of society for common goals of social justice and change. There was a strong critique of neoliberal capitalism in Brazil, the current structure used by the rich to impose their agenda on the masses. So people there are not just focusing on a few particular individuals or a particular administration or a particular party (sound familiar), but a system that was set up to benefit a select few specifically by targeting the majority of the people as a resource for exploitation. Makes sense to me.

From mid-April to May, ten thousand members of the MST are going to march hundreds of miles to Brasila, the capital of Brazil, to keep the pressure on the Brazilian government for land reform being a necessary component of a democratic and stable Brazil. On April 1st there was a fundraising event at Traditions Café in Olympia, and there will be another event April 15th in Portland. For more information on the MST, info on how to support the MST, or details about the April 15th event in Portland call 259-1879, or me at 705-1971. 🌱

Landless Workers' Movement of Brazil



The Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST) — Landless Workers' Movement of Brazil, has been at the forefront of social action for just land distribution defending the right to a sustainable livelihood. The MST works with peasants to identify and settle on underutilized land, gain legal title to the land and bring it into productive use. Through the MST's efforts, close to 400,000 families have been settled on 17 million acres of land and another 70,000 families are living in encampments, awaiting title to their land.

Settlements have established 1200 primary schools and 60 secondary schools, with 150,000 pupils. Settlement activity has created 900,000 new jobs in the area of agriculture alone, with at least as many related jobs created in nearby cities. Social indicators, from infant mortality to school attendance, are generally dramatically better in MST settlements than in the rest of rural Brazil.

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The Green Party of South Puget Sound takes a stand against the militarization of our port

by Drew Hendricks

On March 24, the Green Party of South Puget Sound decided to petition the Port of Olympia Commissioners to change the name of our Port to “Peace Port of Thurston County.”

We would rather run a candidate for one or both of the seats up for election this Fall, but we could find no candidate after three months of trying to identify someone within the districts up for elec-

one in the third district (Tumwater, Rochester, Western Thurston County) we would trigger a primary election between Paul Telford, the sitting commissioner, and Ed Stanley, a Tumwater City Councilman who is rumored to be running for the seat, and our third candidate. That would essentially double the cost of winning the seat and reduce our chances to win significantly.

If we could run someone for the second district (Yelm, Ranier, parts of Lacey and Eastern Thurston County) we would likely avoid a primary and have a

The vote would be binding as a name change, and would probably scare the new commission into doing what we want, but would not be binding as a policy change.

tion. Instead, the name change campaign is our backup plan of action against the militarization of the Port.

The name change campaign is a way for us to have an impact on the existing races for the two open seats, making the militarization of the Port an issue in the election for all the candidates. They will each have to address the issue during the campaign because of our petition. It is also a way to secure a referendum on the question of military use of public property, which would appear on the General Election Ballot along with the candidates for office.

There are three seats on the Port of Olympia Commission. They are elected by district, if there is a primary. These districts have the same boundaries as the County Commissioner's districts. Each seat must be filled by someone who lives within that district. At the general election, each seat is voted on by all of Thurston County's voters.

The two seats up for election in 2005 are districts two and three. These are the districts at the Eastern and Western edges of the county. The central district (#1) which covers Olympia is held by Robert Van Schoorl who was elected in 2003. We supported Ken Filak in that race, and he earned just under 40% of the votes cast in the election.

If more than two people file for office in any single port district, a primary is held just within that district so that only two choices are left to the voters in the General Election in November. If there are only two people filed for office, there is no primary and both go directly to the General Election. Thus, if we ran some-

much better chance to win that seat. To change the military policy at the port we need two of three seats voting with us.

To secure a ballot item for changing the name of the Port of Olympia, we need to collect signatures of registered voters equal to 10% of the votes cast in the 2003 race, or just over 4,136 people. We can do this by collecting just 28 signatures per day between now and September 23, 2005 – the 45-day cutoff prior to the November 8th General Election. Once that hurdle is jumped, we would have to convince somewhere near 30,000 voters to vote for a name change. The vote would be binding as a name change, and would probably scare the new commission into doing what we want, but would not be binding as a policy change. However, we thought that doing nothing was a less viable option. Our authority for the petition is found at **RCW 53.04.110**

If you live in the second port district and are willing to run for office, you're about 35 days late to begin raising money and supporters – but call us anyway. The deadline for filing for office is still ahead of us, and a late campaign is better than no campaign. If you live anywhere in Thurston County and would like to collect petition signatures toward our name change petition, then call us. We would like to begin collecting signatures as early as the Procession of the Species. The number is 870-3127. 

Olympia Police Department

September 2004 Use of Force

Date	Case Number	Type of Force	Officer
9/4/04	04-6759	Draw and Direct	Herbig
9/4/04	04-6759	Draw and Direct	Gassett (Rifle)
9/4/04	04-6759	TASER Shot	Hovda
9/4/04	04-6759	TASER Shot	Gassett
9/7/04	04-6810	Draw and Direct	Jordan
9/10/04	04-6909	Bite and Hold	Conan (Police Dog)
9/10/04	04-6909	TASER Shot , Missed	Hinrichs
9/10/04	04-6909	Gooseneck Wrist	Samuelson
9/11/04	04-6922	TASER Shot	Pearce
9/11/04	04-6922	TASER Contact	Gassett
Gassett used a Contact TASE to the person's left thigh to get them into a car, after they were already handcuffed.			
9/15/04	04-7046	Palm Strike to Chest	Gassett
9/17/04	04-7097	Draw and Direct	Henry
9/17/04	04-7097	Prisoner Fell to Ground	Rick Smith
A man fell to the ground as he stepped out of the car inside the OPD Sally Port, while Rick Smith was looking the other way and speaking to someone else. Jail camera surveillance was used to verify Smith's story.			
9/19/04	04-7125	TASER Pointed	Duncan
9/19/04	04-7125	Hair Hold	Duncan
9/19/04	04-7125	TASER Contact	Hinrichs
9/20/04	04-7166	Draw and Direct	Herbig
9/20/04	04-7166	TASER Pointed	Bakala
9/24/04	04-7266	TASER Pointed	Gassett
9/24/04	04-7266	TASER Shot	Gassett
9/24/04	04-7266	TASER Jolt (2 nd)	Gassett
The same person was jolted after being shot with the TASER. Jolts last 5 seconds when the TASER is fired and as long as the officer holds the trigger – up to five seconds – after the TASER is already fired.			
9/25/04	04-7332	Hair Hold	Wilson
9/25/04	04-7332	Taken to Ground	Wilson
9/25/04	04-7332	Knee in Back	Jordan
9/27/04	04-7351	TASER Shot	Jordan (TASER Serial reported as P2-008432)
9/27/04	04-7375	Draw and Direct	Smith
9/27/04	04-7375	Draw and Direct	Renschler
9/27/04	04-7375	Draw and Direct	Henry (Rifle)
9/30/04	04-7462	Arm Bar Hold	Heinze
9/30/04	04-7462	Wrist Hold	Evers
9/30/04	04-7462	TASER Pointed	Heinze
9/30/04	04-7462	TASER Contact	Heinze
9/30/04	04-7462	Violent Chair	Heinze, Evers, Hovda,

Wojtech, Amos, Crumpton

The Violent Chair is a chair with restraints into which police sometimes place uncooperative prisoners. The Chair is attached to the person's wrists, legs, and waist.

The records for this information are called Supervisor's Checklists. Olympia Copwatch requests these documents so we can get an idea of how many times force is being used and what types of force are being used. The reports are brief summaries, and do not include statements from the persons on whom the force is used. Olympia Copwatch is not given the names of the persons – other than police officers – named in the reports. We do not know whether the listed cases represent all uses of force by the Olympia Police Department – only that it is likely that we have all of the cases reported to police management. If you notice that a case is not listed here, you should call Olympia Copwatch at 870-3127 and state that you might have an unreported case.

The case numbers listed indicate that at least 553 cases were opened in September of 2004. The cases in which force was reported (13) represent a small fraction of the case numbers assigned, and an even smaller fraction of the contacts police had with the public. Most of the time, it is the threat of force which gains compliance, rather than the application of force.



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Dorothy Granada, 1997 winner of the Pfeffer Peace Prize, to visit Olympia

Dorothy Granada, nurse and director of the Maria Luisa Ortiz clinic in Mulukuku, Nicaragua, visits Olympia as part of a 14-city West Coast speaking and fundraising tour. Dorothy will be speaking at The Temple Hatfiloh, 201 8th Avenue SE, in downtown Olympia 7:30 to 8:30pm on Tuesday, April 19th with reception to follow. She will be speaking on the theme: *Hope and Inspiration Alive and Well in Mulukuku, Nicaragua!*. This tour is a celebration of the tremendous progress made in the four years since Dorothy last spoke here.

The Maria Luisa Ortiz clinic focuses on health care for women and children. Staffed by a Nicaraguan doctor and several nurses, the clinic provides nutritional services to malnourished children, dentistry, emergency medical treatment and transport, and employs some alternative healing approaches, including massage and naturopathic medicine. Teams of medical doctors and dentists from throughout the United States also provide specialized care on a rotating basis. This year a long-planned-for sterile surgery unit was added to the clinic property, and the first surgeries were performed in November.

Five years ago, in 2000, Granada was forced into hiding and the clinic was temporarily closed, by the Nicaraguan Government, acting under pressure from the Catholic Church of Nicaragua. A wave of popular support brought Nicaraguans into the streets of Managua and rallied the support of the international community, including Amnesty International. Dorothy successfully fought the Nicaraguan Government through the courts to the level of the Supreme Court reopening the clinic and avoiding deportation, so she could continue her inspiring work.

Dorothy will be speaking about her work on Tuesday April 19th from 7:30 – 8:30pm at the Temple Hatfiloh, 201 8th Avenue SE, in Olympia.

For more information please contact Beth Doglio or Eddy Cates at 570-8804. 🌱

Local Olympia Amnesty International brings the “Expose” Human Rights Film Festival to Capitol Theater

The newly formed Olympia Amnesty International chapter # 474 brings the Amnesty International Human Rights “Expose” Film Festival to Olympia. It will take place on **Saturday April 16th and Sunday April 17th at the Capitol Theater, 206 5th ave SE, right downtown.**

Joining us on Saturday, April 16th will be Larry Dohrs of Amnesty International’s Business and Human Rights campaign to talk about corporate human rights abuses. Larry Ebersol, chair of Amnesty International Puget Sound and longtime member of AI Seattle group #4 will speak on the USA Patriot Act on Sunday, April 17th. Check out these gems:

- “Books not Bars,” documents the inspiring youth-led movement against the massive prison industry in the U.S.
- “Thirst,” shows how global corporations are rapidly buying up local water supplies.
- “Hidden in Plain Sight” Is a highly acclaimed investigation of the US relationship to Latin America as seen through the prism of the SOA, the - controversial training school for Latin soldiers on U.S. ground.
- “Nazrah: A Muslim Woman’s Perspective,” is an intimate look at a diverse group of Muslim women living in the Pacific Northwest in the USA.
- “The New Rulers of the World” examines the true effects of globalization. John Pilger goes behind the hype of the new global economy and looks at the new rulers of the world — the great multinationals and the governments and institutions that back them — the IMF and the World Bank.
- In “Unconstitutional: The War on Our Civil Liberties” you’ll get the real story behind the USA Patriot Act and other administration policies and the gut wrenching stories behind those affected.

Screening Schedule:

Saturday, April 16th - 5pm: “The New Rulers of the World”, “U’wa v. Oxy”
“The Many Faces of Madness”, Speaker: Larry Dohrs, 7:30pm: “Crossing the Line”, “Hidden in Plain Sight” - 9pm: “Bringing Down a Dictator”, “Books not Bars”, “Resistencia: Hip Hop in Colombia”

Sunday, April 17th - 4pm: “Cancel the Debt Now”, “Thirst”, 6:30pm: “Nazrah: A Muslim Woman’s Perspective”, “Unconstitutional: The War on Our Civil Liberties”

Speaker: Larry Ebersol

For more information about the film festival or Amnesty International, please contact olyamnesty@riseup.net. For theater information call (360)754-6670. 🌱

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Thurston County Progressive Network (TC Pro-Net) Unites and Strengthens the Local Progressive Movements

by Glen Anderson

Local progressives have long felt a need for better networking and collaboration among our various organizations and movements. The *Thurston County Progressive Network (TC Pro-Net)* meets a number of specific needs. Its new website, www.tcpronet.org, is providing several services already, and more are being developed now. The website will provide “one-stop shopping” for a wide variety of information and services to serve local progressives.

TC Pro-Net is not merely another coalition. Instead, it exists entirely to serve local progressives and strengthen all of the various organizations and movements in Thurston County. TC Pro-Net is absolutely unique in creating powerful new resources and services to help progressive individuals and organizations work more effectively and produce stronger results. Instead of duplicating existing efforts, we are filling unmet needs and also collaborating with existing groups to strengthen their current efforts and share their services with wider audiences.

Calendar: Our website provides a comprehensive Community Calendar where members can list their events and activities for everyone to see. Member organizations can post to their own respective calendars there and see them automatically copied onto the entire Community Calendar. We appreciate Media Island’s collaboration in developing this. See www.tcpronet.org/services/calendar/month.php

Skills-sharing Network: We are developing a Skills-Sharing Network in collaboration with the Olympia Community Free School. This will allow volunteers to post the skills they’re willing to share, and will allow progressive organizations to find the specific kinds of help they need.

Speakers Bureau: Individuals and organizations who could speak on one or more topics will be able to post their topics and contact information on the website’s Speakers Bureau page. Then any community group, school, or other audience seeking a speaker will be able to visit the website, choose a topic and find out who could speak on that topic. This will significantly increase progressive speakers’ outreach to many audiences (both progressive and mainstream alike)!

Directory: A directory of progressive organizations is being created and will be updated often. This will help us find each other and improve inter-group communication and cooperation.

Web-based Community Forum: A Moderated Community Forum is forming as part of the website’s Other Services page. This will facilitate conversation a broad range of topics.

Action Alerts: The website will provide a way for members to post action alerts. This will significantly improve the progressive community’s ability to respond to late-breaking needs and opportunities, so we can deliver a stronger progressive punch to hot issues.

Picnic Monday May 30: Mark your calendars for TC Pro-Net’s first networking picnic all day **Monday May 30** (on the Memorial Day holiday), at **Tumwater Historical Park**. This park is just slightly north of Tumwater Falls Park, before the freeway on-ramp. For information about the picnic contact Glen Anderson 491-9093 glen@olywa.net

Join now! A network is only as strong as its members. TC Pro-Net can fulfill its potential if a great number and variety of progressives join. Membership is open to individuals, organizations and businesses within Thurston County. TC Pro-Net serves progressives across all the issues, including those working for peace, social justice, electoral reform, economic justice, the environment, alternative media, GLBT rights, sustainable agriculture, alternative energy, prison reform, etc., etc., etc. You can join now for only \$20. See the website’s “Get Active — Join Us” link. For more information about membership contact Sherri Goulet 352-8225 shardon@comcast.net or Chris Stegman 705-3528 c.stegman@comcast.net

Even more! TC Pro-Net is responding to requests by a large number and variety of local progressives. TC Pro-Net’s volunteers are working hard to create the services that local progressives think are most important. When you join, please fill out the Membership Form and Membership Survey to help set TC Pro-Net’s priorities. **And – because all the work is being done by volunteers – we need your energies and skills.** Please volunteer when you join. We’re on a roll! 🌱



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To end the war, listen to soldiers' war stories

"We should listen to those most affected by the war in our society: soldiers who fought in Iraq and have been returning in large groups to our communities."

Simona Sharoni

